

Currently, almost all such urban development aids to local government are available to special districts and, in many cases, private associations, as well as counties. Overly restrictive population and dollar ceilings on certain grants and loans often discourage more economical joint projects among counties and between a county and municipalities within its borders. Finally, few federal aid programs have the stated objective of implementing locally adopted plans for development.

To remedy these conditions which have an adverse effect on local government, the National Association of Counties recommends: (1) that the Congress remove from federal aid programs for urban development all limitations which require or promote special districts to the disadvantage of the counties and other general units of local government; (2) that effective functional and comprehensive planning be encouraged at the local level to the extent appropriate in all federal urban development aid programs; (3) that both federal and state programs encourage joint participation in cooperative projects by local governments through removal of population and dollar limitations and through the use of financial incentives; (4) that the states more fully assume their responsibility for assisting urban development in the counties by establishing state programs to supplement federal matching grants to local governments for urban development, including adequate organizational machinery for appropriate state channeling or review of such jointly supported programs and for rendering technical assistance to the local governments concerned; and (5) that Congress and the Executive Branch establish the principle and implement the practice of federal inter-agency coordination in the full range of programs affecting urban development.

2-10. *Incentives in State and Federal grant programs to encourage joint efforts to resolve common problems.*—Numerous services performed by local government are best provided when undertaken on a territorial basis broader than the individual unit of local government. Experience in such fields as open space land acquisition, public health, urban planning, and airports has shown that grant programs can be designed to achieve more effective local services through joint undertakings by more than one unit of local government. The National Association of Counties believes that state and federal grant programs, where appropriate, should contain provisions to encourage joint undertakings among local units of government.

2-11. *State and Federal legislation needed.*—We recommend that in order to strengthen county and regional planning that applications from local governments within a metropolitan area for federal grants-in-aid for airport construction, waste treatment works, urban renewal, public housing, hospital construction, and urban highways be reviewed and commented on by a legally constituted planning agency with responsibility for comprehensive planning for the metropolitan area or region and that such planning agencies be composed of or responsible to the elected local government officials of the metropolitan area.

7-6. *State and Federal legislation needed.*—We endorse adequate state and federal legislation which permits and encourages county and regional planning. When state legislation is inadequate we recommend that state associations take such steps as are necessary to obtain adequate statutory authority. We recommend that federal and state highway programs include appropriate provisions for insuring that highways are located with due regard for good local land planning principles, and that federal and state highway agencies include land planners in their design sections.

We further recommend the enforcement of provisions which would assure the local jurisdictions that problems of drainage, access, etc., which are created as the result of a highway program, would be taken care of by the state or federal agency that was responsible for the construction of the road.

7-10. *Comprehensive planning and consolidation of Federal assistance programs.*—The National Association of Counties endorses the establishment of a federal grant program for comprehensive planning, including physical, economic, and human resources planning, on the local level, and urges that all local functional planning be done in conjunction with the comprehensive planning of a general purpose unit of government responsible to elected officials. NACO urges the federal government through the Bureau of the Budget or some other agency in the Office of the President to review carefully all planning requirements of federal programs for consistency. NACO supports the consolidation of special purpose aid programs into broader functional grant programs which can be more effectively related to state and local planning processes.

In order that these comprehensive and functional plans can be carried out, it is necessary that federal assistance funds for complex projects (such as